

# NOTICE OF OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET ACTION

Date 12/24/2009

Department of Education  
Office of Federal Student Aid  
FOR CERTIFYING OFFICIAL: JoAnn Ryan  
FOR CLEARANCE OFFICER: Angela Arrington

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act, OMB has taken action on your request received 11/13/2009

ACTION REQUESTED: Revision of a currently approved collection  
TYPE OF REVIEW REQUESTED: Regular  
ICR REFERENCE NUMBER: 200910-1845-005  
AGENCY ICR TRACKING NUMBER: 4120  
TITLE: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)  
LIST OF INFORMATION COLLECTIONS: See next page

OMB ACTION: Approved with change  
OMB CONTROL NUMBER: 1845-0001

The agency is required to display the OMB Control Number and inform respondents of its legal significance in accordance with 5 CFR 1320.5(b).

EXPIRATION DATE: 12/31/2010

DISCONTINUE DATE:

BURDEN:	RESPONSES	HOURS	COSTS
Previous	17,123,392	8,341,867	0
New	21,696,675	26,781,074	0
Difference			
Change due to New Statute	0	0	0
Change due to Agency Discretion	0	-4,121,501	0
Change due to Agency Adjustment	4,573,283	22,560,708	0
Change Due to Potential Violation of the PRA	0	0	0

TERMS OF CLEARANCE: This collection is approved with the following terms of clearance:

Upon re-evaluation of the Department's current methodology in assessing burden imposed by the public, the Department acknowledges that the burden estimate as submitted to OMB for the FAFSA application did not include the time required to complete some ancillary processes required in order to accurately complete the application. As required under 5 CFR 1320, agencies are to include in their burden estimates, an estimate for the total annual reporting and recordkeeping burden that will result from the collection of information. As a result, the Department of Education has adjusted its estimate of the burden by including the time devoted to activities such as preparation, submission, and record-keeping.

It is important to note that the higher burden estimate does not reflect an actual increase in burden, but rather a more accurate estimate of the burden associated with the FAFSA application process. It is also important to recognize the Department's tremendous efforts in burden reduction through the use of web enhancements such as skip logic and pre-population of IRS data. These efforts are reflected in the significant program change reduction due to agency discretion.

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Given the plans submitted by the Department to better assess burden in its 2010-2011 FAFSA submission to OMB, FSA must further re-evaluate their burden estimates before seeking OMB approval for the 2011-2012 FAFSA application. In order to do so, FSA will do the following:

- Using the 2010-2011 F OTW application, they will monitor application completion time. The completion timer will start at the Introduction page (after successful login) through submission of the application. The time will not include timeouts by applicant and will be rolled back to last completed action. (FSA) will receive a weekly report of completion average by applicant type (dependent and independent students) and type of FAFSA completed (FOTW, FAFSA EZ and pre-filled FOTW).
- In addition to analysis of the 2010-2011, FSA will use existing approved customer satisfaction survey questions and consider adding additional questions pertaining to preparation time (gathering documents, reading instructions, etc)
- FSA will also evaluate whether or not to conduct additional studies (usability testing and customer satisfaction) to accurately assess estimates of burden. Options include but not limited to:
  - o Review of comparative analyses of the methodologies used by other federal agencies that are similar in complexity and uses.
  - o Student/applicant focus groups
  - o Financial aid administrator focus groups
  - o Usability studies

OMB Authorizing Official:

Kevin F. Neyland  
Deputy Administrator,  
Office Of Information And Regulatory Affairs

List of ICs			
IC Title	Form No.	Form Name	CFR Citation
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (Paper FAFSA)	NA	Free Application Federal Student Aid	
FAFSA on the Web	N/A	FAFSA on the Web	
FAFSA Electronic (Also known as 'FAA Access')	N/A	FAFSA Electronic (Also Known as 'FAA Access')	
FAFSA EZ	N/A	FAFSA EZ	
Renewal FAFSA on the Web	N/A	Pre-filled FAFSA on the Web	
Pre-filled FAFSA Electronic	N/A	Pre-filled FAFSA Electronic	